

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in the above-identified RCE application. Pursuant to the Amendment, Claims 1-15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 16 and 19 amended. In addition, Claims 25-43 have been added.

In the Office Action dated December 30, 2002, Claims 1-14 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and Claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. In addition, Claims 1, 3, 10, 12, 15, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and Claims 17 and 18 have been objected to. The objection to the claims, as well as 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection, Applicants respectfully submit has been overcome in view of the Amendment After Final.

With respect to the prior art rejections, Applicants respectfully submit that those rejections have now been overcome or are moot in view of the instant amendment to the claims. In this regard, each of the pending claims now requires at least two film forming agents, cellulose and starch. The art of record, Applicants submit, does not disclose nor suggest the claimed invention as set forth in each of the independent claims and claims that depend therefrom. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified patent application is now in a condition for allowance and respectfully request that it be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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